



MSDN Subscriptions

A guide to help you make the most of your subscription.

MSDN Subscriptions Team
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Hello and welcome to MSDN Subscriptions!

Not only does MSDN Subscriptions come with the most powerful IDE in the world—Visual Studio—but also exclusive perks **just for MSDN subscribers** to keep you ahead of an ever-changing world.

This guide is intended to help current subscribers learn how to use their benefits and make the most of their subscription—or if you're not currently a subscriber, use this to learn about what an MSDN subscription is and if becoming a subscriber is the right thing for you.

Topics covered include:

- [What is an MSDN subscription?](#)
- [Connect to the cloud—MSDN subscriber Azure benefit](#)
- [Collaborate—sky is the limit—perks with Visual Studio Online](#)
- [Hardcore developer training—Pluralsight benefit](#)
- [A laundry list of other goods](#)
- [Helpful links & resources](#)

We hope you find this information valuable. Connect with us [@MSDN](#) and let us know.

Happy coding,
The MSDN Subscriptions Team

What is an MSDN subscription?

If you are using Visual Studio 2013 or above . . . chances are you are an MSDN subscriber.

MSDN Subscriptions are **often** bought in bulk through Volume Licensing to help companies distribute software to their development teams—specifically, one of the most powerful IDEs in the world, Visual Studio.

While subscriptions are frequently bought at an enterprise level, the benefits created are designed and intended for the end developer—YOU. Whether you purchased the subscription yourself, or your company did, you are hopefully acutely aware that your MSDN subscription is more than just software, and a host of benefits are included in your subscription to help you in an ever-changing world.

If you are using Visual Studio and are not sure if you're an MSDN subscriber—you can check by signing in to the portal.

1. Go to MSDN.com
2. Click “MSDN subscriptions” in the upper right-hand corner
3. Use your Microsoft account
4. You'll land on the My Account page. If you're a subscriber, you'll see all your benefits listed. Otherwise, you'll see a message that you don't have a subscription.

Introducing . . . the Administrator
(applicable to Volume Licensing only)

When a company makes numerous purchases through Volume Licensing, an **administrator** is assigned to the account. The administrator is responsible for distributing the subscriptions to team members.

For a quick 1-2-3, this is how the process works:

1. Company purchases Visual Studio with MSDN subscriptions
2. Company assigns an administrator
3. Administrator assigns MSDN subscriptions to each team member
4. Team member **activates subscription and officially becomes an MSDN subscriber**

Note step #4: **Team member activates subscription and officially becomes an MSDN subscriber.** It is absolutely critical that you activate your subscription as this allows you to take advantage of all the benefits offered to you as a subscriber.

An e-mail is sent to you as soon as the administrator assigns you a subscription—look for this e-mail in your inbox, its subject line will be: “Activate your MSDN subscription today.” In this e-mail, you will receive instructions on activation (don't worry—it's easy), and your subscriber ID. Keep this info for your future records.

MSDN Subscriptions on the World
Wide Web

Basic information on MSDN Subscriptions is available on MSDN.com and Channel 9.

- [MSDN Subscriptions—Overview](#)
- [MSDN Subscriptions—Benefits](#)
- Channel 9, “[MSDN Subscriptions—It's More than Software](#)”

Connect to the cloud—MSDN subscriber Azure benefit

A marquee benefit for subscribers is Azure cloud credits. Each MSDN subscription includes up to \$150 USD Azure credits per month. Use these credits to develop and test applications with on-demand infrastructure that includes access to the exclusive MSDN virtual machine library, which contains Windows client to Windows Server VMs with Visual Studio pre-installed.

Monthly Azure credits can be used on Azure services for your dev and test needs, including: virtual machines, websites, cloud services, mobile services, storage, SQL database, content delivery network, HDInsight, media services, and many more. Plus, your credits last longer because MSDN subscribers receive discounted hourly rates.

How much credit do YOU get? Let's find out.

Visual Studio Enterprise with MSDN	\$150 USD / month
Visual Studio Professional with MSDN	\$50 USD / month
Visual Studio Test Professional with MSDN	\$50 USD / month
MSDN Platforms	\$100 USD / month

Here are a few examples of what you can do with your credits:

\$150 USD / month

- Test drive Visual Studio 2015 on a basic 14GB VM for up to 11 hours/day for a month—you only pay for the VM, not the software¹ -**OR**-
- Run 3 Cloud Service role instances and up to 200GB of geo-redundant storage for a month -**OR**-
- Host up to 13 shared app services sites with a 5GB database for a month -**OR**-
- Set up a SQL farm on a quad-core 14GB VM, or a SharePoint farm on a 4-core 7GB VM -**OR**-
- Spin up 14 Linux VMs (8-core, 14GB) for up to 30 hours of load testing

\$100 USD / month

- Test drive Visual Studio 2015 on a basic 7GB VM for up to 15 hours/day for a month—you only pay for the VM, not the software¹ -**OR**-
- Run 2 Cloud Service role instances and up to 100GB of geo-redundant storage for a month -**OR**-
- Host up to 8 shared app services sites with a 4GB database for a month -**OR**-
- Set up a SQL farm on a quad-core, 7GB VM, or a SharePoint farm on a dual-core, 3.5GB VM -**OR**-
- Spin up 11 Linux VMs (8-core, 14GB) for up to 25 hours of load testing

\$50 USD / month

- Test drive Visual Studio 2015 on a basic 7GB VM for 7 hours/day for a month—you only pay for the VM, not the software¹ -**OR**-
- Run 3 Cloud Service role instances and up to 150GB of locally redundant storage for a month -**OR**-
- Host up to 4 shared app services sites with a 1GB database for a month -**OR**-
- Set up a SharePoint farm on a dual-core, 3.5GB VM for 12 hours/day for a month -**OR**-
- Spin up 20 Linux VMs (dual-core, 3.5GB) for up to 25 hours of load testing

¹Software for dev and test only (non-production use).

Watch these instructional videos to learn about how you can use benefits:

- [Spin up a VM in minutes](#)
- [Create a SharePoint farm](#)
- [Learn how to use Azure benefit with Microsoft Evangelist Boris Scholl](#)

Activate your benefit today

If you are already an MSDN subscriber, activate your benefit on Azure.com by confirming your MSDN subscription. Be sure you use the same e-mail associated with your MSDN subscription (usually, your Microsoft account).

1. Visit the [MSDN Subscriptions Azure](#) benefit page
2. Click the big green button ;)
3. Use **the same e-mail associated with your MSDN subscription**
4. See your \$\$ in the bank
5. As a reminder—there is **no credit card required for activating this benefit**

If you want to associate your work account with your Azure benefit, your steps are slightly different.

1. Log in to the MSDN subscriber portal [My Account](#) page
2. Click “Link to your work account” in the Microsoft Azure section
3. Enter your work account and click “Link”
4. Then follow steps 1-5 above to activate Azure benefit

What happens when my credits expire?

Any unused monthly credits cannot be carried over to subsequent months and cannot be transferred to other Azure subscriptions. **Remember, no credit card is required for this service.** Simply activate the benefit to use your credits, and if you use your full credit, service will simply be disabled until the next billing cycle.

You can choose to turn off your [Spending Limit](#), and any usage each month in excess of the monthly credits will be charged to your payment method at the rates specified by the [Azure subscription](#).

What do you charge to use the software?

You can use the software² covered by your [MSDN subscription](#) for development and test purposes at no additional charge. Over 500 preconfigured VMs are available for you to use within minutes, including an exclusive MSDN image gallery—view the full VM library in the Azure portal. And if one of those 500 won’t work for you, you can configure your own.

²Cloud use rights apply to all software included in the MSDN subscription, except Windows client and Windows Server. MSDN subscribers can run Windows Server and Windows Client on Windows Azure Virtual Machines for a fee.

Collaborate—sky's the limit—perks with Visual Studio Online

Share code, track work and ship software with cloud-powered collaboration tools. Visual Studio Online connects to Visual Studio, Eclipse, Xcode, and other Git clients to support development for a variety of platforms and languages.

As an MSDN subscriber, you can add **an unlimited** number of other MSDN subscribers to your account to drive coding collaboration.

Make sure you have your Visual Studio Online profile created and use the same e-mail associated with your MSDN subscription for extra perks. Or if you want to use your work account, visit the MSDN [My Account](#) page to link it.

What is Visual Studio Online anyways?

Visual Studio Online allows you to host your code privately in the cloud, manage your work in one place, build your applications in the cloud or on premises, gain insight into your applications, and more. Visual Studio Online is your home base for all of your development efforts. It keeps your code safe and helps you quickly get great solutions out the door.

Why you should use Visual Studio Online

- **Get started quickly:** Create your account in minutes (try setting up a new server that quickly!).
- **Collaborate:** Grow as big as you need. You can add as many fellow MSDN subscribers to your account at no charge, and an additional 5 contributors (and an unlimited number of stakeholders). In addition, you can be an owner or member in more than one account.
- **X-geo & X-org collaboration:** Visual Studio Online provides a flexible model that allows you to add people with just their Microsoft account or work account. They can be co-workers, friends, or contractors—it doesn't matter. And you can access your code from anywhere in the world—the beaches of Bali, your home office, your favorite java joint—as long as you're connected to the World Wide Web.
- **Be up-to-date:** Visual Studio Online is updated about every three weeks. This means new and exciting features that help you build better software are delivered on a regular basis and bugs are fixed faster.
- **Connect to the Cloud:** Visual Studio Online doesn't just run in the cloud, it helps you take your next big thing to Internet scale with Microsoft Azure. For example, you can use great features—like continuous delivery—to push your ASP.NET website into Microsoft Azure websites with ease.

Learn more and create a team project to store your code using steps in the [Getting Started](#) article.

Hardcore developer training—Pluralsight benefit

MSDN subscribers now get access to Pluralsight training—hardcore training created exclusively for developers. Supercharge your skills and learn on any device—any time.

MSDN subscribers have access to a set of [hand-selected](#) Pluralsight [courses](#). The number of courses available depends on the MSDN subscription level (see table below for specifics). Topics include: Visual Studio and ALM, architecture, Azure, desktop development, IoT & cloud, languages, SharePoint, and web development—basically, if you are a Microsoft developer, we have courses applicable to you! And we regularly update the course list to make sure you get up-to-date training.

How many Pluralsight courses do YOU get? Let's find out.

Visual Studio Enterprise with MSDN	30 courses for 12 months
Visual Studio Professional with MSDN	15 courses for 12 months
Visual Studio Test Professional with MSDN	15 courses for 12 months
MSDN Platforms	30 courses for 12 months

Learn more

- [Channel 9, Introducing Pluralsight benefit](#)
- [Pluralsight & MSDN web page](#)

How to activate the Pluralsight benefit

1. Log in to the [MSDN subscriber](#) portal using the account associated with your MSDN subscription
2. Click on the [My Account](#) page
3. Click on the "Activate your Pluralsight benefit" on the [My Account](#) page
4. This will take you to the Pluralsight Benefit Landing page where you can review benefit information and the course catalog that is customized for your MSDN subscription level. Click "Activate your Pluralsight benefit" and you will be redirected to Pluralsight.com to register and access courses
5. On the Pluralsight website, you will complete required fields (use same e-mail associated with your subscription) in the form and click "Activate benefit." You will be sent a welcome e-mail with a user name and temporary password
6. Sign in and you're done

Want more Pluralsight?

In addition, MSDN subscribers qualify for a special [30% discount](#) on an individual annual subscription to the entire Pluralsight library.

A laundry list of other goods

In addition to the benefits outlined above—and Visual Studio³—subscribers get lots of extra perks. Make sure to log in to the [subscriber portal](#) and **bookmark the My Account page**. We are constantly updating the benefits to make sure you get the latest, so check back frequently!

The perks:

- **Subscriber downloads**

You'll get access to all future releases, in addition to current and past releases. Over 11 terabytes of Microsoft products are available to you.

- **Windows developer account**

Add your apps to the Universal Store for the world to see, try, and buy.

- **Office 365 developer subscription** (Enterprise subscriptions only)

Use as a development and testing environment for Office and SharePoint apps.

- **MSDN Magazine subscription**

Get the inside scoop with a complimentary digital or print⁴ subscription to MSDN Magazine—Microsoft's journal for developers. Get valuable tips on Visual Studio, SQL Server, the .NET framework, and more.

- **Technical support incidents**

Get stuck? Leverage technical support to get the help you need when you need it.

- **Priority support in MSDN forums**

Get expert answers to your questions. Microsoft will respond to your question in two business days if your question isn't already answered in the forums.

- **MSDN online chat**

Chat with us for assistance finding technical documentation and product information, or using your subscription benefits. Available 24/7. Chat assistance is provided in English.

- **Special offers from partners**

As a subscriber you can take advantage of special offers from third-party partners.

We're continually adding new benefits to MSDN Subscriptions, so check back often! Bookmark the [My Account](#) page on the [subscriber portal](#) so you are always in the know..

³Visual Studio IDE included in all subscriptions except MSDN Platforms.

⁴Delivery charges apply for print editions outside the United States

Helpful links & resources

We hope you found this guide useful to make the most out of your subscription.

The links are hyperlinked for electronic viewing—but just in case you need the full URL's, we've posted them all below for you. There are a few other electronic resources we want to make sure you also have access to.

Subscriber Portal

MSDN Subscriber Portal: <https://msdn.microsoft.com/subscriptions>

***Remember to bookmark the My Accounts page:**

<http://aka.ms/mymsdnbenefits>

Customer Service:

<https://msdn.microsoft.com/subscriptions/aa948875.aspx>

Web Pages

MSDN Subscriptions Overview:

<https://msdn.microsoft.com/msdn-subscriptions-overview>

MSDN Subscriptions Benefits:

<https://msdn.microsoft.com/benefits-overview>

MSDN Azure Benefit Activation:

<http://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/pricing/member-offers/msdn-benefits/>

Visual Studio Online:

<https://www.visualstudio.com/en-us/products/what-is-visual-studio-online-vs.aspx>

Pluralsight Benefit Course List:

<http://support.pluralsight.com/knowledgebase/articles/456830-which-courses-are-included-with-the-benefit>

Visual Studio

<https://www.visualstudio.com/>

MSDN Subscriptions & Visual Studio Product Matrix:

<https://www.visualstudio.com/products/compare-visual-studio-products-vs.aspx>

Channel 9 Videos

MSDN Subscriptions: More than Software:

<http://channel9.msdn.com/events/Visual-Studio/Connect-event-2014/610>

MSDN Subscriptions Overview

<http://channel9.msdn.com/Series/MSDN-Subscriptions/Get-the-most-from-your-msdn>

MSDN eLearning Benefit: Pluralsight Training:

<http://channel9.msdn.com/events/Visual-Studio/Connect-event-2014/612>

MSDN Subscriptions: How to activate your Azure benefits⁵

<http://channel9.msdn.com/Series/MSDN-Subscriptions/Activate-MSDN-Azure-Benefits>

MSDN Subscriptions: How to spin up a VM with Azure benefit

<http://channel9.msdn.com/Series/MSDN-Subscriptions/MSDN-Subscribers-How-to-Spin-up-a-VM>

MSDN Administrators

<http://channel9.msdn.com/Series/MSDN-Subscription-Administration/Lets-Get-Started>

Social

MSDN subscriptions Twitter [@MSDN]:

<https://twitter.com/MSDN>

Microsoft Developer Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/MSFTDev.US?brand_redir=231824870284680

Visual Studio Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/VisualStudio>

Visual Studio Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/visualstudio.us?fref=ts>

Blogs

Visual Studio blog:

<http://blogs.msdn.com/b/visualstudio/>

MSDN Subscriber Interview blog post:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/developers/articles/week01may15/msdn-promotion-how-to-get-the-most-from-your-msdn-subscription>

Brian Randell blog (third-party developer):

<http://www.mcwtech.com/blogs/brianr/>

⁵Note you no longer need to have a phone authentication when activating your benefit.